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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9070
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TAGS: KMDR OPRC OIIP KPAO XM XR XF BR

SUBJECT: Media Reaction Sao Paulo - Africa: Sudan, Darfur violence, sanctions; human rights situation; East Asia and Pacific: human rights; South and Central Asia: Iran

Title- "Brazil Omits itself"

Editorial in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (3-30) states: "....In addition to the classic repressive apparatus, Kim Jong-il [North Korean leader] presents odious particularities....the United Nations Human Rights Council last week approved a resolution condemning Kim Jong-il's regime. Brazil abstained from voting. In the Sudan....300,000 people have died in the Darfur's region and the life of 2 million refugees hangs in the balance. Brazil does not condemn the Sudanese regime....More than 90 countries have approved a U.N. resolution banning cluster bombs....Also in this matter, Brazil omits itself. It is not by courting dictators and malefactors that Brazil will take over a leading role in the world - a role that Lula's government says it so desires..."

Title- "Iran and the 'new beginning'

Editorial in center-right Estado de S.Paulo (3-30) says: "....With regards to the bilateral relationship with the U.S., Teheran's first reaction was cold, as one would anticipate. [Iran] subjected the resumption of talks, halted in 1980,....to an apology, among others, for the U.S. having shot down a commercial Iranian jet in 1998, killing 290 people....Obama represents a complication for the Iranian government. At least it is now harder to keep on calling the U.S. the 'great Satan'....No one can see under which political conditions an Iranian leader would have to subject its nuclear program to international surveillance or to accept the transference of its uranium enrichment to another State....Even among Iranians of the Occidentalized middle class the right of its country to its nuclear activities is nonnegotiable."

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